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HOG SLAUGHTERINGS IN SPECIFIED COUNTRIES PRELIMINARY 1951 AND PROSPECTIVE 1952

Commercial or inspected hog slaughter in the principal pork producing countries of the world is expected to be around 8 percent larger in 1951 than in 1950. The total for these countries may be as much as 40 percent above the 1934-38 prewar average.

Assuming favorable feed supplies and a continuing strong demand for pork products, the prospective slaughter for 1952 can be expected to surpass the 1951 level. Substantial gains are likely in Canada, the United Kingdom, Western Germany, Belgium, Austria, France, Ireland, Argentina, Cuba and Japan. Minor increases are forecast for Mexico, Switzerland, the Union of South Africa and Australia. On the other hand, declines may occur in Denmark and other Scandinavian countries, and in the Netherlands and Brazil. Pork output in the United States for 1952 may fall slightly under that in 1951, as the corn-hog ratio is now less favorable than a year ago.

In general, increases in hog slaughter during 1951 were made possible by sufficient feed supplies, intensive postwar breeding and feeding programs and the important position that meat has commanded on world markets. Hog numbers in Europe continued to increase rapidly, with wartime losses nearly recovered by 1951. The 1951 hog slaughter in Western Germany and France will equal or surpass the 1934-38 average, but the 1951 kill in the United Kingdom, although above 1950, will be far below prewar. The slaughter in Austria and Belgium will be only slightly under prewar.

Hog slaughter for 1951 will be substantially larger than during 1950 in all North American countries except Mexico and Cuba. In the United States slaughter is expected to increase from a year earlier by 5 million head, or around 9 percent. In Canada the gain may be only 4 percent. All countries in North America are far above their prewar levels, except Cuba, which is around 20 percent below.

The total number of hogs butchered commercially in Europe during 1951 may total approximately 10 percent above 1950. This gain is attributed to the expansion of farrowings in 1949 and 1950, plus better-than-average feed and forage conditions. The large potato crop in 1950 in western and much of central Europe has been of material assistance in supporting higher hog numbers. The increased hog kill in Western Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Denmark more than offset declines in Ireland, France and Norway.

The sharp gain in the hog slaughter in Denmark and the Netherlands fore-shadow a decline for 1952. The reductions forecast for the coming year in these countries are generally associated with the liquidation of sows in 1951 because of lower feed supplies, smaller returns to breeders from pigs, and the increased cost of both domestic and imported feed.

In the United Kingdom, commercial hog slaughter increased substantially in 1951 because of larger pig inventories. Hog numbers as of June 1951 were placed at around 3.9 million head, about 30 percent above the June 1950 estimate, but 11 percent below the 1939 total. This indicates that the British hog population is rapidly increasing as a result of satisfactory feed supplies and a favorable price relationship for pig production. Belief is that expected supplies of feed will continue to support an expanded hog population, although the lower prospective 1951 cereal crop may cause some difficulty and future supplies from the Soviet Union and other countries are uncertain. The 1951 Irish hog kill was 18 percent below that of 1950, but the chance for a moderate increase in 1952 is good. The 1951 slaughter of hogs in Ireland was around 40 percent below the 1934-38 prewar average.

Reliable estimates or forecasts of hog slaughter in the Soviet Union are unavailable, but the large number of pigs on farms suggests that increases in meat production have occurred. Nevertheless, current pork output is considerably below production goals, as well as prewar levels. Countries in eastern and southeastern Europe are approaching their respective prewar hog populations. Poland has established an important export program for pork and pork products. Sufficient supplies of feed and forage coupled with intensive breeding programs undoubtedly have contributed to the gains in these satellite countries. In Yugoslavia, the 1951 hog slaughter will probably be less than that of 1950 due to the severe drought of 1950 and early 1951 which encouraged the marketing and slaughtering of stock. Some indecision regarding the slaughter of hogs is currently in evidence in Yugoslavia, as farmers await new governmental regulations affecting livestock.

Commercial hog slaughter in South America during 1951 declined slightly from 1950. Material decreases in Argentina and Uruguay offset a moderate increase in Brazil. The severe drought of late 1949 and early 1950 in the River Plate area reduced seriously the corn crop, thereby limiting breeding intentions. Accordingly, the reduction in farrowings curtailed the pig crop which was marketed and slaughtered in 1951.

Hog slaughter in Australia continued to decline in 1951, but in New Zealand increased around 3 percent. The respective 1951 kills for Australia and New Zealand were around 20 and 30 percent below prewar. The number of hogs butchered in the Union of South Africa increased tremendously during World War II and the postwar period. In 1951 the number was more than 3 times the 1934-38 average. There is evidence that hog slaughter in South Africa will now be maintained close to the current level. Slaughter in Japan and the Philippine Islands increased by 15 and 8 percent, respectively, in 1951 when compared with the previous year. The 1951 hog kill in Japan may be placed at around 18 percent above prewar.

Slaughter Information on Country Basis

Inspected hog slaughter in Canada for 1951 is expected to exceed that of 1950 by around 200,000 head, an increase of about 4 percent. The number of hogs on Canadian farms, according to the June 1951 census was estimated at over 5.8 million head, 12 percent higher than the estimate of the previous year. Hog production will probably continue to increase during the next

year or so, and the spring 1952 pig crop will be larger than in 1951. The 1952 kill may reach 5.6 million head. The hog-barley ratio has gradually changed so that hog prices have become more favorable relative to feed prices, but the beef cattle-hog relationship is very much in favor of beef cattle.

In the United States, corn output during each of the four years, 1948-51, was larger than any previous year back to 1930 with the exception of 1946. This level of corn production would permit a yearly pork production of about 11.7 billion pounds. Pork production in 1951 may reach 11.8 billion pounds from the slaughter of around 86 million head, but output of pork in 1952 may not reach the level of this year as a tightening in feed supplies may induce marketings at lighter weights.

According to available information, hog slaughter in Mexico is expected to fall below the 1950 level, but will remain above the 1934-38 prewar average. For 1952, a moderate increase is forecast. The recent development of meat packing in Northern Mexico is lending some impetus to the expansion of pork production. These packing plants have been active in the importation of improved breeding stock and with such protein supplement as tankage becoming available from the packing industry, there is a good reason to expect a moderate increase in the hog population.

In Cuba commercial hog slaughter during 1951 is expected to drop around 6 percent. The outlook for 1952, however, is optimistic because of the comparatively high hog prices in relation to controlled cattle and beef prices. The increased commercial kill anticipated for 1952 will be at the expense of farm slaughter.

In the United Kingdom, commercial hog slaughter in 1951 will increase. Preliminary forecasts place the slaughter at 3.75 million head, a 21 percent increase when compared with 1950, but 33 percent below the prewar average. For 1952, the outlook for a continued rise is good.

Hog numbers as of June 1951 were estimated at around 3.9 million head, according to an official estimate. Unless feed becomes short, it appears that hog numbers will continue to increase in view of the large number of sows kept for breeding compared with a year ago, and a favorable price relationship for pig breeding. Based on the above, slaughter in 1952 may reach over 4.7 million head according to preliminary forecasts prepared by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, United States Department of Agriculture.

Indicated Irish commercial hog slaughter during 1951 may fall as low as 18 percent below the 1950 total, but the prospects for 1952 are for a substantial increase above the 1951 level. The 15 percent decline in pig numbers estimated in the past June census reflected producers' hesitancy early this year in conditions of market uncertainty. With the cyclical nature of pig production, however, it is probable that production is now stimulated by high prices in the domestic market. This should result in increased bacon-type pig numbers towards the end of the year. The effect of the pig and bacon agreement with Britain will be reflected only in long term production.

Producers capable of producing all or most of their feed requirements should be able to expand output with a degree of confidence.

Danish commercial slaughter during 1951 is expected to exceed the 1950 total by around 16 percent and the prewar average by 17 percent. Shortages of domestic feed plus the high cost of imported feed forced marketings in 1951. The 1952 outlook, however, is for a 12 percent reduction in the hog slaughter. Although Danish hog numbers decreased very slightly from mid-July 1950 to mid-July 1951, sow numbers in the same period were reduced by 61,000 head. The large decrease in the number of bred sows indicates that the producers are inclined not to force production, but rather to hold back until prospective economic conditions affecting future production are cleared up.

Official hog slaughter in the Netherlands during 1951 increased 18 percent when compared with 1950. The Dutch, as well as the Danes, are expected to curtail the 1952 kill. Accordingly, the 1952 slaughter in the Netherlands may be close to 7 percent less than estimated for 1951. Total sow numbers in May 1951 were 28,400 head less than in May 1950. The number of sows not used for breeding were estimated to have been 22,500 head in 1951 against 14,400 the previous year. The relatively large total for feeder pigs up to 95 kilos (209 pounds) can be taken as a guarantee that until September enough animals were available for the Dutch bacon industry to meet the requirements of the Netherlands-United Kingdom bacon contract.

Commercial hog slaughter in Sweden in 1951 is expected to increase slightly when compared with the previous year. However, owing to a 10 percent decrease in sows bred in 1951 and proportionally higher feed costs, the 1952 kill may be moderately reduced. Official slaughter in 1951 for Belgium also is expected to decline slightly and remain below prewar. Nevertheless, prospects for an increase in 1952 appear to be good.

Commercial hog slaughter in Western Germany continued to rise in 1951 and authorities anticipate the 1951 total to show a 30 percent gain when compared with 1950. Although an increase is forecast for 1952, the gain may be smaller in comparison with rate of increase in 1950 and 1951. A recent census revealed the strong interest of German farmers in increasing the hog population which reached in mid-June 1951 a point 32 percent above the June 1950 figure and stands around 8 percent above the prewar average. A slowing down of the rate of increase in the hog population is seen from the relatively smaller increase in bred sows in comparison to total numbers. This indicates that the peak in hog numbers will be reached in late 1951 with a total close to 14 million head.

In Austria, the official 1951 hog slaughter is expected to be maintained near the 1950 level, but prospects are favorable for a 15 percent increase in 1952. The number of hogs on June 1951 was larger by 181,000 than estimated a year previous. The serious meat crisis in Austria which occurred in mid-1951 was largely precipitated by the failure of farmers to make deliveries through regular commercial slaughter channels and was attributed to a general price dissatisfaction. If ceiling prices for pork as set by the Ministry of

the Interior last fall remain unchanged, as now seems probable, it may be that the Austrian farmers in 1952 will be less eager to produce hogs for the commercial market than in 1950 and during the first half of 1951, when the ratio between fixed grain and pork prices was more favorable than it is now.

Hog slaughter in France in 1951 is expected to fall about 6 percent when compared with 1950, but should increase moderately in 1952. The number of hogs butchered under inspection in Switzerland in 1951 was close to the 1950 total; a slight increase is anticipated for 1952. Hog breeding is currently facing an upward trend.

Commercial slaughter of hogs in the Union of South Africa in 1951 was maintained close to the 1950 level and no change is anticipated for 1952 barring an increase in the incidence of swine fever.

The severe drought in late 1949 and early 1950 in Argentina sharply reduced the corn crop and forced liquidation of many herds. Accordingly, breeding intentions were curtailed in 1950 there-by limiting the 1951 marketings. The 1951 hog kill may be around 30 percent below 1950, but should rise again in 1952 because of new European export contracts for pork and pork products.

Estimates of commercial hog slaughter in Brazil during 1951 indicate an increase of roughly 7 percent above that of 1950 and around 90 percent larger than the prewar volume. For 1952, a 5 percent decline is expected. Due largely to the record corn harvest in south and central Brazil in 1950, trade sources expect that the 1951 hog crop may exceed that of last year by as much as 15 to 20 percent. The price of corn has remained fairly low in recent months and with the current favorable price of hogs many farmers have found raising hogs profitable.

It appears probable that the total hog slaughter in Australia during 1951 will be close to the 1950 kill, but a moderate increase in the number slaughtered will take place in 1952. Total pork production during 1951, however, will be considerably larger than during 1950 due to heavier average weights. In New Zealand commercial hog slaughter in 1951 increased slightly when compared with 1950. No increase is anticipated for 1952.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

HOGS: Slaughter (commercial or inspected) in specified countries,
calendar year, average 1934-38, annual 1949-1952

Continent and country	Average 1934-38	1949	1950	Preliminary 1951	Indicated 1952
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA					
Canada 1/.....	3,239	4,099	4,405	4,600	5,600
Mexico 2/.....	1,280	1,820	1,950	1,875	1,975
United States - Inspected....	34,673	53,032	56,964	62,000	62,000
- Total.....	57,229	75,293	79,488	85,500	86,000
Cuba 3/.....	270	255	235	220	270
EUROPE					
Austria 4/.....5/	1,798	890	1,755	1,750	2,000
Belgium 4/.....	1,949	1,631	2,005	1,880	2,050
Bulgaria 3/.....	134	-	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia 4/.....5/	3,644	2,755	-	-	-
Denmark 3/.....	4,355	2,915	4,401	5,100	4,500
Finland 1/.....6/	216	390	312	320	300
France 3/.....5/	5,010	4,447	5,324	5,025	5,400
Germany - Western 3/.....7/	7,600	1,927	6,237	8,300	9,100
Hungary 3/.....	1,434	-	-	-	-
Ireland 3/.....7/8/	1,119	663	790	645	775
Netherlands 4/.....	2,133	1,565	2,365	2,800	2,600
Norway 1/.....	333	203	476	240	230
Poland 1/.....5/	6,100	-	-	-	-
Portugal 1/.....	225	426	345	400	-
Rumania 3/.....5/	777	-	-	-	-
Spain 9/.....10/	397	-	-	-	-
Sweden 3/.....	1,396	1,536	1,825	1,875	1,700
Switzerland 1/.....	793	641	756	750	775
United Kingdom 3/11/.....7/	5,633	2,177	3,111	3,750	4,750
Yugoslavia 3/.....	661	-	-	-	-
ASIA					
Japan 3/.....	1,106	650	1,132	1,300	1,500
Philippines, Rep. of 3/.....	794	672	651	700	750
SOUTH AMERICA					
Argentina 1/.....	1,240	1,487	1,450	1,000	1,400
Brazil 3/.....	2,960	5,072	5,250	5,600	5,300
Colombia 3/.....	594	747	775	-	-
Uruguay 3/.....	86	118	127	105	105
AFRICA					
Union of South Africa 3/.....	251	800	821	805	810
OCEANIA					
Australia 3/.....8/	1,912	1,646	1,517	1,510	1,550
New Zealand 3/.....12/	968	662	662	680	680

1/ Inspected slaughter. 2/ Total slaughter. 3/ Commercial slaughter. 4/ Total official slaughter. 5/ Year 1936 only for Czechoslovakia, year 1938 only for France and Poland, and year 1939 only for Rumania and Austria. 6/ Average for 3 years only. 7/ Average for 4 years only. 8/ Year beginning June 1 for Ireland and July 1 for Australia. 9/ Slaughter in provincial capitals. 10/ Average for years 1931-35. 11/ Great Britain only. 12/ Year ended September 30.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Data relate to present boundaries unless otherwise noted.